

Senate Resolution 8 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY BISIGNANO

1 A Resolution designating February 12, 2015, as
2 Black History Day at the Iowa State Capitol for
3 recognition and celebration by educational and
4 historical groups throughout the state.

5 WHEREAS, Black History Month in the United States
6 dates back to 1926, based upon the efforts of Dr.
7 Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard-educated scholar descended
8 from slave parents; and

9 WHEREAS, Black History Month is traditionally
10 observed in February of each year; and

11 WHEREAS, Black History Month is designated to
12 recognize and pay tribute to many African Americans
13 long neglected by society and the history books; and

14 WHEREAS, the Iowa General Assembly has designated
15 a day each February to focus particular attention
16 on Black History Month as recognized and celebrated
17 by educational and historical groups throughout the
18 state; and

19 WHEREAS, February 12, 2015, Abraham Lincoln's
20 birthday, has been selected as the day to observe
21 and recognize Black History Month at the Iowa State
22 Capitol; and

23 WHEREAS, as part of Black History Day, the Senate
24 wishes to celebrate and inform all Iowans of the
25 history of the contributions African Americans have
26 made to the Iowa General Assembly, especially those
27 African American members who represent historic firsts
28 and exemplify the ideal of the citizen legislator; and

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1 WHEREAS, in 1983, Thomas Mann Jr. became the first,
2 and to this day the only, African American to serve
3 in the Iowa General Assembly as a member of the Iowa
4 Senate during the 70th, 71st, 72nd, and 73rd Iowa
5 General Assemblies; and

6 WHEREAS, Thomas Mann Jr. personifies the ideals of
7 a citizen legislator, serving on several legislative
8 committees, including as Chairperson of the Judiciary
9 Committee, while also serving as an Iowa Assistant
10 Attorney General and as Executive Director of the Iowa
11 Civil Rights Commission; NOW THEREFORE,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
13 designates February 12, 2015, as Black History Day at
14 the Iowa State Capitol and encourages all Iowans during
15 the month of February to recognize and celebrate the
16 important contributions African Americans have made
17 to Iowa, especially those African Americans who have
18 served as members of the Iowa General Assembly.